



Body Worn Cameras

City of Tigard Police Department



Discussion Topic

Should Tigard Police Department spend time, money, and effort to expand our body worn camera program?

What is the expectation of Tigard Community Members to record law enforcement encounters and does Tigard Police Department's current video recording technology and practices meet those expectations?

What are the benefits and limitations of body worn cameras?

What potential impacts do body worn cameras have on the City of Tigard and the Tigard Police Department?





What is a Body Worn Camera?

Body Worn Cameras are small digital video recorder systems.



Expectations from Citizens

- Evidence collection
- Better Police-Public interactions
- Creates efficiencies in police work
- TPD has experienced success with current BWC

Response from the Public

According to a Cato Institute 2016 Poll, most Americans (74%) believe body worn cameras “protect both the police officers that wear them and the citizens who interact with the police.”

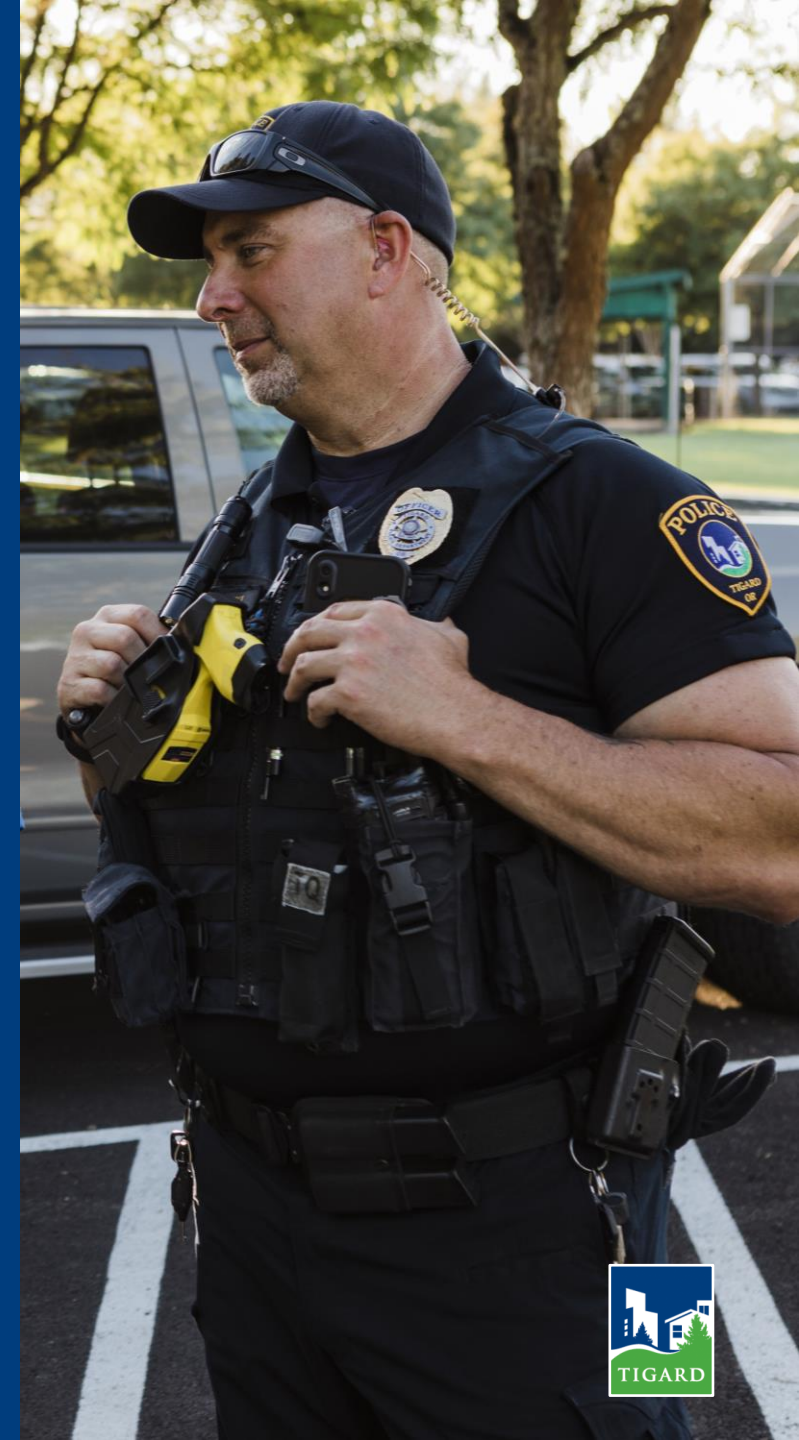
Police Body Cameras. (2016, December 06). Retrieved January 05, 2021, from <https://www.cato.org/policing-in-america/chapter-4/police-body-cameras>



Benefits of Body Worn Cameras

- Better Transparency
- Increased Civility
- Quicker Resolutions
- Corroborating Evidence
- Training Opportunities

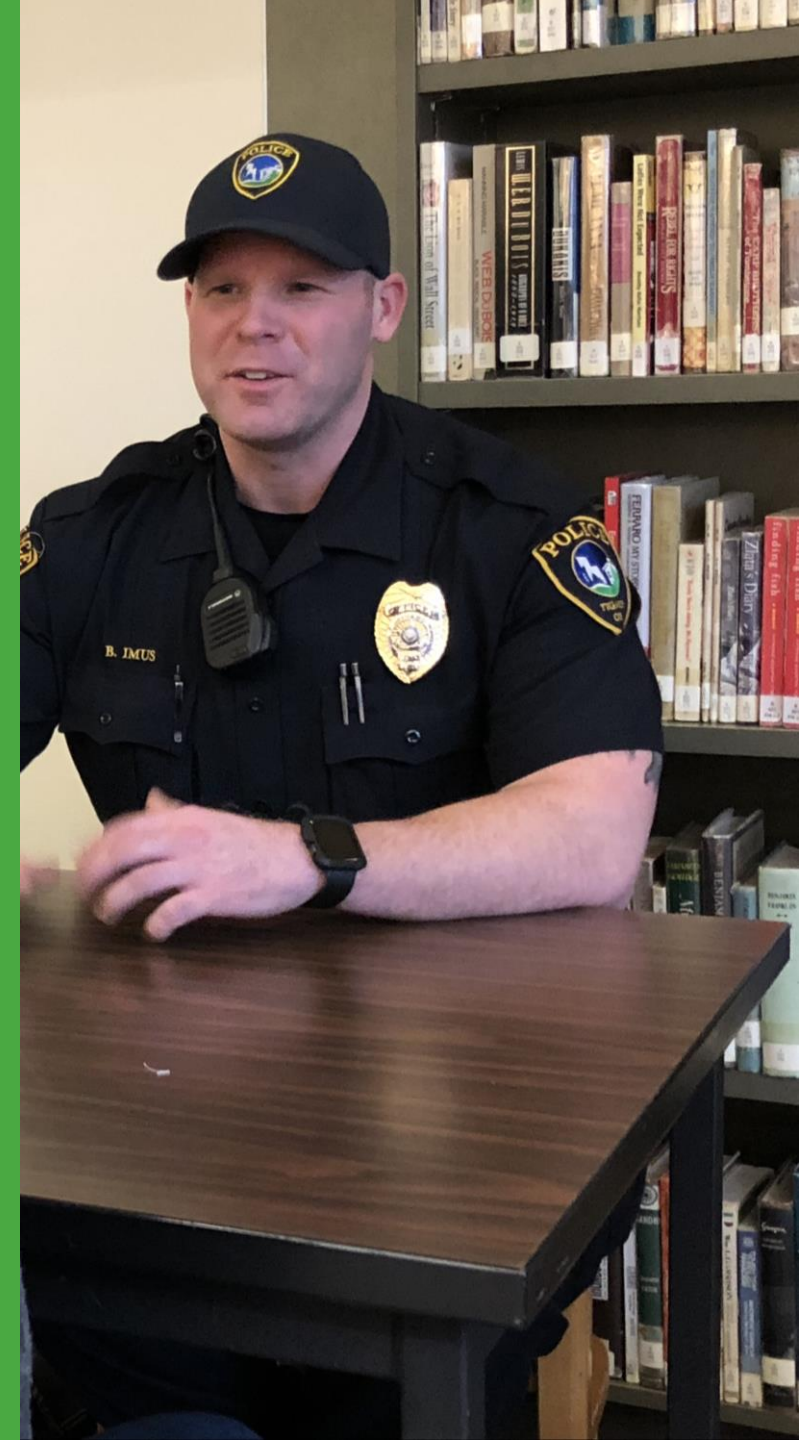
Chapman, B. (2019). Body Worn Cameras: What the Evidence Tells Us. *NIJ Journal*, 280





Benefits of Body Worn Cameras

- Record police-public interactions from a perspective closer to the officers
- Better evidence than in-car video
- Tend to lead to better outcomes, especially in potentially volatile contact
- Research shows increased productivity and fewer complaints or uses of force





Arizona State University Study

- Officers activating cameras when required was low
 - 42.2% peak to 13.2% towards end of study
 - Higher compliance for Domestic Violence (47.5%) and calls involving violent offenses (38.7%)
 - Back-up officers more likely to activate cameras (37%)
 - Policy, training, and audits of usage can correct these errors
- Time to process cases increased on average 34.6 days (78.1 days vs 43.5 days) when Officer Worn Camera video was included

Katz, C., Choate, D., Ready, J. & Nuno, L. (2015). Evaluating the Impact of Officer Worn Body Cameras. *(Center for Violence and Community Safety, Arizona State University)*



Arizona State University Study



- Complaints against officers dropped significantly
 - 22.6% decrease in official complaints as compared to 10.6% increase for the control group and a 45.1% increase across the department
- Domestic Violence investigations resulted in higher ratios of arrest and prosecution

	Test Group	Control
Cases Initiated	40.9%	34.3%
Charges Filed	37.7%	26.0%
Prosecution Started	12.7%	6.2%
Pled Guilty	4.4%	1.2%
Found Guilty	4.4%	.9%

Katz, C., Choate, D., Ready, J. & Nuno, L. (2015). Evaluating the Impact of Officer Worn Body Cameras. (*Center for Violence and Community Safety, Arizona State University*)

Current Video Equipment

- 10+ years old in-car system
- Requires on-site servers for uploading and storage of video
- Limited deployment of BWCs for K9, SRO, Traffic, and CSO





Replacement Systems

- New In-Car Video for patrol vehicles
- Body Worn Cameras for all sworn staff and Community Service Officers
- Systems we are looking at allow for: secure storage in the cloud; integration between vehicle, BWCs, and other devices; and ease of use but robust capabilities



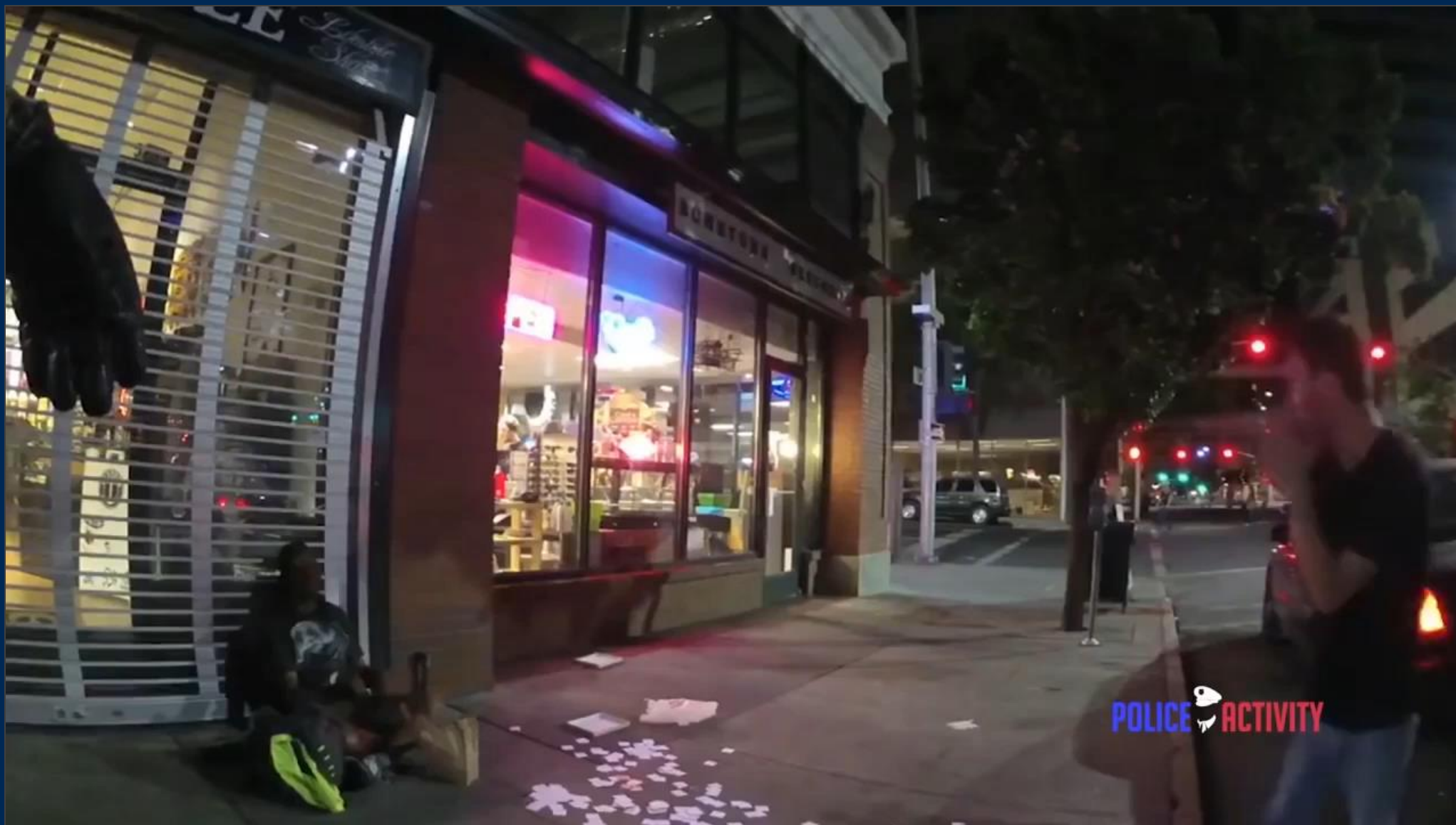


WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

LE Agencies Currently Using Body Worn Cameras

Example of Use #1



POLICE  ACTIVITY

Example of Use #2



Example of Use #3

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AXON BODY 3 X6039BCN0



POLICE  ACTIVITY



Conclusion

Policy 449 – currently in place and has been for several years due to limited deployment. Covers when cameras should be activated, identification and preservation of recordings, how videos can be released.

We looked at some of the research conducted around the use of Body Worn Cameras, the current state of our in-field video recording capabilities, the features of the systems we think we need in BWC systems, and examples that highlight the limitations and capabilities of BWC video evidence.

The main question for the Board to consider is whether or not to endorse the replacement and expansion of the Body Worn and Dash Camera Program in Fiscal Year 2021

CITY OF TIGARD

Respect and Care | Do the Right Thing | Get it Done

